

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT No. 1
Bridgewater Township
PO Box 109, MARTINSVILLE, N. J. 08836

Martinsville Station # 1
Martinsville, NJ
May 8, 2012

Minutes of the May 8, 2012 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman Rose, who gave notice of the Sunshine Law requirements.

Present were Commissioners: Mr. Rose, Mr. Lichtig, Mr. Kalafsky, Mr. Van Nostrand; and Mr. Durant, Also present were Chief Bradley and Asst. Chief Cowley.

The minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were distributed via e-mail and hard copy. Motion made by Mr. Durant to approve, second by Mr. Kalafsky and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report for March, as of April 10, 2012, was presented by Mr. Van Nostrand, motion made by Mr. Durant to approve; second by Mr. Kalafsky and passed. The bills for March 2012 were presented, and motion to approve all presented bills was made by Mr. Kalafsky, second by Mr. Lichtig, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was opened to the public at 8:03 PM. It was requested that all wishing to speak must stand, state their name and address:

John Kovacs 987 Rosemary Dr. (Sunset Lake) Bridgewater:

- 1) Mr. Kovacs brought up issues that he and his neighbors had conversations with the preliminary **concept** of replacing the current back-up major pumper with possible attack and utility vehicles due to his concerns of supplying water from a drafting point to the top of the west side of the lake area.

Chairman Rose stated that Mr. Kovacs' comments were strictly firematic issues and his concerns should be directed to the Chief of the Department.

- 2) Mr. Kovacs also had a question from previous minutes about a letter that was written to Ex-Chief Weidele about the condition of the laptop computer that was returned after his term in office.

Chairman Rose stated that that letter was directed to Mr. Weidele and questions and concerns will be directed to Mr. Weidele. Mr. Rose also stated that the intent of the letter was an inquiry of how and when the laptop computer was damaged.

- 3) Mr. Kovacs also made mention of his OPRA request about the approximately \$20,000.00 in unpaid invoices from 2011 budget year that were not submitted by the previous administration prior to the close of the 2011 budget year.

Chairman Rose stated that the request for all end of 2011 invoices were requested at the November and December 2011 Board meetings and that the January 2012 meeting was the deadline so that the Board could make the necessary allocations to cover these expenses held over.

Bill Weidele 1573 Washington Valley Rd. Bridgewater:

Mr. Weidele stated that he wanted to clarify about the letter that he received on the condition of the laptop. Mr. Weidele stated the John Kovacs was his IT person and took care of all issues relating to computers and technology. He feels that Mr. Kovacs' e-mail explained any questions.

Vice Chairman Lichtig stated that he did not receive the e-mail response and when he finally did get to read Mr. Kovacs' e-mail response the questions were not answered satisfactorily.

Chairman Rose stated that Mr. Weidele, as Chief of the Department was entrusted with that equipment and he should have known how it ended in the condition it was when returned.

Further debate continued no resolution.

John Kovacs 987 Rosemary Dr. (Sunset Lake) Bridgewater:

Mr. Kovacs stated the laptop computer was never looked at or opened until Mike Richards used it for Knox Box work. Mr. Kovacs said that there was no use for the computer since he used his own personal computer.

Vice Chairman Mr. Lichtig stated that he had used that very laptop computer to set up the Knox Box system and when he resigned as Captain, he turned it over in perfect working condition.

Mr. Weidele insisted that it be clear that "John Lichtig never put the laptop computer in his hands."

Further debate continued no resolution.

Chairman Rose gave another opportunity to the attending public for anyone wishing to make a statement, comment, or be heard; the meeting was closed to the public at 8:19 PM.

Correspondence:

- Other than invoices and advertisements, no correspondence was received through the postal service.
- An OPRA request was received from John Kovacs for the unpaid bills from 2011.
- A hand delivered letter from MVFD President Doug Wright requesting \$25,000.00 from the capital account for payment for the new concrete ramp in front of Station #1.
- Received the insurance card and coverage for the vehicles and turned them over to the Chief. Mr. Rose stated that he has retained a copy in case they are lost or misplaced.

The Chief's report for April 2012 was distributed; no questions were raised.

A motion was made by Mr. Kalafsky to accept the Chief's report, second by Mr. Rose, and was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Martinsville Rescue Squad:

No Report

Insurance and LOSAP:

As stated above in correspondence, we received the insurance cards for Property and Vehicles and will be paying that invoice in full rather than quarterly. It will be more cost effective.

Life Insurance and LOSAP; both checks were sent to Mr. Tanga and are filed with Harleysville. The Chief will have to get the balance of any outstanding forms by Friday May 11th. The Chief needs to get Social Security numbers from Junior Member's parents. He is working to get all necessary information.

Fire House Lease:

As stated above in correspondence, MVFD President Mr. Doug Wright has request \$25,000 from the capital fund. The ramp replacement is one of the items listed in the lease for use of the capital funds. Mr. Rose requested a motion to approve the \$25,000 capital distribution. Total cost of the ramp work was \$30,000.

A motion to approve the \$25,000 expenditure was made by Mr. Kalafsky seconded by Mr. Van Nostrand and passed unanimously.

Membership and Personnel:

One New Member; Drew Damico will respond from Station #2.

Trucks Out of District:

Monthly Drill at the County; Car Fires

Bridgewater Joint Board:

Mr. Van Nostrand and Mr. Lichtig attended the meeting. Mr. Van Nostrand reported there is a new insurance contact person.

Firefighter Incentive:

Previously discussed above

New Development:

The Chiefs in the township are trying to keep up with the status and progress of the Rt. 22 Project.

Vehicle Training:

On going

Retired Equipment:

Pending auction the second week of May. After the auction, a check will be received and deposited.

Stolen Gear Racks:

An insurance claim was filed. Looking for some back-up documentation from the Chief

New Business:

New Fleet Apparatus:

No Report to discuss at this meeting.

43-141 Brush Truck off road Accident:

All Members of the Board were notified in a timely manner;

Chairman Rose, for the record, made mention that we all understand that “accidents” do happen, We are grateful that no one was hurt or injured, and that the incident happened during a training session.

The insurance company is looking for an estimate to repair the vehicle. Chief Bradley said that he would have taken 141 for an estimate but he received a verbal communication that an adjuster was going to contact him and do an onsite adjustment. Chairman Rose will contact the insurance company and get a clear direction on their wishes on the damage adjustment. Chief Bradley is going to bring it to a new body shop; VALPEK in Fairfield, NJ.

No other new Business

A motion to adjourn the May 10, 2012 meeting was made by Mr. Kalafsky, and seconded by Mr. Rose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.